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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer is going to be led by one of the greatest pastors and human beings I have met in my long career in politics. He has done an amazing job both at CCC, his church, and throughout New York and America.

So the prayer will be led by Dr. A.R. Bernard, founding pastor of CCC, Christian Cultural Center, in the great borough of Brooklyn, NY.

Let us pray.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Thank you, Senator.

Let us bow our heads as we go to the Lord in prayer.

Our Father and our God, to whom belongs all glory, honor, and praise, we humble ourselves in prayer, seeking Your wisdom and guidance as we accept the responsibility to guide, guard, and govern this great Nation. As the prophet Jeremiah said, "We stand at a crossroad."

We join our hearts and minds in the simple prayer of the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures and the prophet of the New Testament. We ask "Thy Kingdom come," not a future messianic Kingdom—that we leave in Your care and control—but the power of Your presence in the here and now; the power that changes the hearts, minds, and lives of people by truth, righteousness, justice, and peace and thus transforms our Nation, its political constructs, our social institutions—their systems, structures, policies, and practices—that while elevating some, tend to marginalize others; the power that transforms relations between government and citizens, labor and capital, between neighbors and friends, between the members of a household.

Let our love of a free market and our responsibility for the most vulnerable collaborate toward the common good.

Help us to clarify our role and function, both domestic and abroad.

Help us to understand the meaning of our identity as one nation under God.

Bring the spirit of renewal to our Nation. Reawaken passion, fervor, and creativity toward purpose. Let it begin with the individual and spread to our culture.

We understand this is a big prayer, but You are a big God. So we ask You and trust You to help us, O God, and hear our prayer.

In Your Name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is the first time I am sitting in the Chair, and you can see why. What a great man he is.

Let us pledge.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHUMER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator GILLIBRAND has had the great sense to invite the pastor to give the opening prayer. Let me call on her for a brief introduction.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Thank you so much, Mr. President. Thank you for your leadership and your extraordinary stewardship of our State.

I rise today to thank and welcome my guest, Rev. A.R. Bernard, for leading us in that beautiful prayer this morning—so heartfelt, so purposeful, selected exactly for this moment in time. The wisdom that you bring us is very welcome.

Through all the challenges that my constituents and Senator SCHUMER's constituents in New York have faced over these last few years, Rev. Bernard has been a steadfast and devoted leader, serving his flock through faith and good works.

Not only does he lead one of New York's largest churches, Reverend Bernard is tackling some of the most pressing issues that our communities face: food insecurity, injustice, ensuring all of our children receive high-quality education.

He truly embodies the Word and the grace of God, and I am proud to welcome him as my guest for the summit that we are hosting today for African-American faith leaders.

I hope we will be able to learn from his example.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from New York.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S105